

2003 Summer Work at the Little Bighorn:

Jane Bock, PI, spent from 6 May to 17 May at the Battlefield. Maureen O'Shea Stone, consultant, and Carl Bock, co-PI, were there from 10 May to 17 May.

The following tasks were accomplished.

Birds: We made a preliminary bird list of birds: 41 total species: 32 in riparian woodland, 7 grassland birds, 2 residence area birds. We plan to repeat the census in the fall and next spring-summer.

Plants: We established or re-established 20 vegetation transects and quadrats, and completed a census of plants on them. We have located all sites using a GPS unit so that people in future years can relocate the sites if they wish to. Some plant identifications are being confirmed at the University of Colorado Herbarium at this time (O'Shea-Stone). To date we have added approximately 20 new species of plants to the list compiled by Simonson (2000 report) and our prior work.

Interaction with NPS Personnel: This is a very positive aspect of this work.

**Michael Stops, Ranger**: We (Bock, Bock and O'Shea-Stone) noted the increase in exotic species in certain areas on the Battlefield and I discussed these matters with Mr. Stops. He has invited us to participate in the invasive plant investigation that the NPS is undertaking. I am eager to participate in any way that we can. We found at least one unreported exotic, invasive plant.

**Kitty Deernose, Archivist**: Ms. Deernose gave us access to Battlefield photos in the archives that could shed light on the vegetation at the time of the battle and in subsequent years. She spent several hours with me during an extremely busy period for her because of her critical role in the dedication of the new Native American memorial that took place with great success on 25 June 2003. She and I discussed the proposed work of Rob Cross, professional photographer, with some of these materials and some others held in Washington DC. She also

facilitated my knowing of Mari Eggers and Alma Snell who hold special knowledge of the vegetation at the Battlefield.

**John Doerner, Historian:** Mr. Doerner allowed me to examine library materials and guided me through some of the more obscure literature as well as manuscript materials held in the Stone House. He provided me work space in the library and introduced me to historic records I did not know about and would not have found without his guidance. Also, he copied three documentary movies of the Battlefield from 1908 (Dixon-Wannamaker), 1960 (The Massacre), and 2001 (Their Shots Quit Coming), all of which have pictures of the vegetation that are very helpful.

#### Future Plans:

I plan to return to the Battlefield this fall to further the archival and historical research and to catalog fall blooming riparian plants. I also would like to look further for invasive weed species. On the way to Montana, I will stop in South Dakota to look at archives that I examined when working at Wind Cave National Park. These materials dealt with Custer and, to some extent, with the Little Bighorn battle.

Carl Bock will conduct further bird work.

While at Crow Agency, I wish to get to know and to receive guidance from Ms. Snell and Ms. Eggers who can tell me a great deal about the plants and their uses.

I hope to be allowed to continue to work in the library and in the photo archives at the Battlefield with Mr. Doerner and Ms. Deernose. Also, I wish to talk further with Mr. Stops concerning invasive species and their control. I also wish to meet the Superintendent of the Battlefield on this trip.

I currently am talking with people at the Western National Park Association in Tucson about how they might make use of some of our findings if the NPS allows.

Sincerely,

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